PROCEDURE RELATING TO GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET AND VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

President: Before we proceed to the general discussion of the budget, I wish to draw the attention of the honourable members to the general rules and the procedure which have to be observed in the discussion and debates in this House on the budget.

As you are already aware, the debate on the budget will begin today with a general discussion, followed by the voting of demands for grants from Tuesday. The maximum of four days allowed under Rule 74 of the Legislative Rules has been allotted for the latter. The demands will be discussed in the order in which they appear in the printed list placed in your hands. The demands under I—Land Revenue and Taxes on Income; and IV—Public Works may each be discussed for half a day, and not more than one hour will be allotted for each of the remaining demands.

The procedure in calculating the time for the voting of demands will be the one adopted in previous years. A day will be taken as from 11 A. M. to 5 P. M. of which the first hour is available for questions and answers and another hour (1 to 2 P. M.) will be the lunch interval. The remaining four hours will be reckoned as a full day and two hours as half a day. If the time taken up for questions and answers is less than an hour, the remaining time will also be available to the House for the voting of demands, but such available time will not go to increase the time allotted for any one demand, and will only enable the House to reach more demands.

Honourable members of the Council are of course aware that they should discuss each demand as a whole and vote upon it as a whole without moving for the reduction of any grant or of any item in a grant. To enable the discussion of each demand in the Council it is not necessary that the members should send in any specific motion, and the Council will have the right to assent or refuse its assent to any demand when it is put to the House.

During the general discussion no member other than the Financial Secretary will be allowed more than 15 minutes, and in the voting of demands for grants the time limit for speeches for members will be 10 minutes. I hope honourable members will so adjust their speeches as to make it possible for a good number of their colleagues including the official members to participate in the debates.

FIXING THE DATE OF ELECTIONS TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE AND THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE.

I also wish to announce that this House will elect one representative to the Public Accounts Committee and another for the

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[President.]

Finance Committee, for the next financial year, on Monday, the 15th August, after the proceedings of the day are over.

The elections will be conducted in the same way as in previous years and they will be presided over by one of the panel of chairmen.

The House will now proceed to the general discussion of the budget.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

Mr. Kottoor Kunjukrishna Pillai (*Quilon* cum *Kunnattur*): Sir, I rise to offer a few remarks on the budget presented by the Financial Secretary. It has been pointed times without number that the most significant feature of our finances was that its expenditure was increasing and its revenue is becoming more and more inelastic. I am glad to find that the Government have taken note of that significant fact. There are not many ways of increasing the revenue and there are not many effective means of introducing retrenchment in regard to expenditure. The only course open under these circumstances is either to increase the revenue by way of new taxation or the tapping of new resources and by retrenchment as far as possible. It has been found that it is not possible to introduce any fresh taxation in this country. Because this country mainly depends on agriculture and agriculture has become more and more uneconomic as days go by. Under these circumstances, Sir, the Government deserves warm congratulations and appreciation for tapping resources and inventing methods of augmenting our revenue by finding out sources which were till now unrecognised. I was rather surprised to find and I was delighted to see that even in quarters that were trying to find out a loop hole in the budget as it is presented they were finding it difficult to point out any substantial defect or criticism so far as the budget is concerned. All that could be done by the most malicious was to create vague fears and to give gloomy forecasts. Sir, any budget in the world can be attacked in this way. If you say that the anticipations will not be realised, that the estimates are too optimistic, there will be no surplus but everything will be deficit, that the financial position is weak, that the revenue surpluses have become small; all these are trite criticisms on budgets with which we are all familiar.

But one who looks honestly into the budget will find if one is to view things impartially that this is one of the very best budgets presented to the House in recent times and the new Financial Secretary deserves congratulations for the lucid presentation of it and for its scientific arrangement.

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